

**The United States Senate Will Honor
Frank Woodruff Buckles,
The Only Living Survivor of World War I
On June 18, 2008**

Frank Woodruff Buckles Biography



Frank Buckles at 16 years old

Frank Woodruff Buckles is the only living U.S. veteran of World War I. Born in February of 1901 in Bethany, Missouri, Frank Buckles has led a truly remarkable life.

Buckles enlisted in the Army in April of 1917 at the beginning of the United States' involvement in World War I. Only 16 years old at the time of his enlistment, Buckles convinced the recruiter to allow him in the Army.

Buckles requested combat service during the War and was told by an older sergeant that the quickest way to see action was to volunteer as an ambulance driver. He drove motorcycles, cars and ambulances for the Army in France and England. Following the Armistice that ended World War I on November 11, 1918, Buckles was assigned to guard and transport German prisoners of war being sent back to Germany.

In 1920, Buckles was honorably discharged from duty having achieved the rank of Corporal at the age of 18.

He attended business school in Oklahoma City and for the next 20 years Buckles worked as Chief Purser for steamship lines in Europe, South America and the Orient.

In December of 1941, Buckles was a civilian working for American President Lines in the Philippines. At the fall of Manila, he was taken prisoner by the Japanese and interned in Japanese prisoner of war camps at Santo Tomas and Los Baños for three years and three months during the Second World War.

Upon returning to the United States, Buckles married, bought a farm near Charles Town, West Virginia and had a daughter named Susannah in 1955. Buckles has lived on that farm ever since. In fact, he was still driving the tractor until the age of 103.



Frank Buckles at 106 years old